

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04927 191114Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
LAB-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OIC-02 /109 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 8378
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4927

PASS IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES AND DALLEY
LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL AND ILAB

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, ILO
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: CAIRO DEMARCHE

REF: A. STATE 142397, B. GENEVA 4888, C. GENEVA 4812,
D. GENEVA 4905 AND 4905 E. HOROWITZ/MAYNES TELCON OF
JUNE 17, 1977

1. USDEL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A FOLLOW BELOW.
2. THE OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE ISSUES INCLUDE (1) THE ELIMINATION OF NON-ELECTIVE SEATS (OF THE 10 STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE) ON THE GOVERNING BODY, (2) "EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION" OF NON-GOVERNMENT SEATS ON GOVERNING BODY (WHICH WOULD DESTROY THE AUTONOMY OF THE WORKER AND EMPLOYER GROUPS) AND (3) THE TRANSFER OF VARIOUS POWERS FROM THE GOVERNING BODY TO THE CONFERENCE. THESE ISSUES ARE "INTRACTABLE" IN THE SENSE THAT THEY CONCERN A SHIFT OF REAL POWER IN THE ILO ON WHICH THERE IS NO CONSENSUS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN
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DISCUSSED SINCE 1964.

3. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, THE US IN A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE HAS ALREADY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE MAINWARING PROPOSAL ON ARTICLE 17 (REF B) WITH MINOR RESERVATIONS, AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE AT THIS CONFERENCE. THUS THE US HAS

DEMONSTRATED ITS FLEXIBILITY ON THE ISSUE; THE EGYPTIANS HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND HAVE TAKEN A POSITION WHICH HAS RESULTED IN CONFRONTATION.

4. THE G-77 CHAIRED BY EGYPTIAN AMB EL-SHAFEI, HAS REJECTED CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 IN ANY FORM AT THE PRESENT SESSION (REF D). THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE G-77 LUMPS THE ARTICLE 17 ISSUE TOGETHER WITH OTHER STRUCTURE ISSUES (REF C) AND PROPOSES THAT WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE (WPS) MEET BETWEEN NOW AND THE 1978 CONFERENCE ON ALL THESE ISSUES. IT PROPOSES THE 1978 CONFERENCE ON ALL THESE ISSUES. IT PROPOSES THE 1978 ILC MAKE "FINAL DECISIONS" ON THESE ISSUES, AND THAT IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THAT IT DECIDE TO CONVOKE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN 1979. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS G-77 POSITION.

5. THE IMEC GROUP HAS REJECTED THE G-77 APPROACH (REF D). ILO DG BLANCHARD IS ATTEMPTING DURING THE WEEKEND TO MEDIATE BETWEEN GROUP REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR) TO SEEK A SOLUTION.

6. USDEL URGES THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT (1) SEPARATION OF ARTICLE 17 ISSUE FROM OTHER STRUCTURE QUESTIONS AND (2) CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 17 AT THIS CONFERENCE (ALL REPRESENTATIVES HAVE VERBALLY DECLARED THEIR AGREEMENT WITH PRINCIPLE OF NO CONDEMNATION
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WITHOUT INVESTIGATION IN ARTICLE 17 PROPOSAL, BUT THE G-77 WISH TO HOLD THE ARTICLE 17 ISSUE HOSTAGE FOR CONFESSIONS ON STRUCTURE ISSUES). IN THE PAST (AND INDEED TO REACH ANY STABLE AGREEMENT, STRUCTURE ISSUES HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS MATTERS ON WHICH CONSENSUS MUST BE REACHED BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR DESIRE FOR SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH CONSENSUS ON STRUCTURE ISSUES AT MEETINGS STARTING THIS WINTER. BOTH USDEL AND IMEC AGREE THAT CONSENSUS ON STRUCTURE ISSUES CANNOT BE REACHED UNDER THREAT OF IMPOSED DECISION AND DEADLINES (REF C) AND HAVE REJECTED THE IDEA OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. SORENSON

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